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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date: 20/8/48

I certify that Document Number _____ was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number RF – 1410 in the Trial by the International Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

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H4899 - 0003

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I hereby certify that the annexed document No. RF — 1410 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the ~~United States~~ Foerster Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg 20/8/48

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN
General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

H4899 - 0004

TRIBUNAL MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL
DES GRANDS CRIMINELS DE GUERRE

Délègation française au
Ministère Public
Réquisitoire individuel

Document N° : RF. 1410

Document 204-PS

Compte-rendu d'une conférence du 18 février 1944

Document déposé par le Ministère Public américain
le 12 décembre 1945 sous le numéro :

U.S. 182

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NÜRNBERG, GERMANY
RF Exhibit 1410
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RF-1410

1410

OFFICE OF U.S.CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

Doc,No.204-PS APO 887 Date 27 August 1945.

Source of Original ROSENBERG Files

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Memo from the Town Commissar of Kaunas to ROSENBERG re. forced labor in Lithuania.

Date: 18 Feb.1944;Original(x) Copy ( ); Language German

If not English, is translation attached: Yes ( ) No ( )

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable)as of 27 Aug.45:

OCC , NURNBERG

PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED: ROSENBERG, RMfdbo, SS,

OKW, SAUCKEL.

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADING (Key to par,nos.of Summary below):

1. FORCED LABOR
2. DEPORTATION

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM;LEADS Town

Commissar of Kaunas

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

1. The memorandum contains a detailed report with regard to measures taken by the German Wehrmacht, the SS and the civil administration in regard to recruitment of forced labor for Germany.
2. The highlights are:
   a) Orders were given by the Wehrmacht to recruit 7,000 men as helpers in the transportation corps. The recruitment took place by asking the population to register. When the men appeared for registration,they were arrested, kept under guard in local barracks and held incommunicado.
   b) SAUCKEL asked the forced recruitment of an ever-increasing number of men and women from Lithuania to Germany. His final figure was 100,000 laborers (page 6).
   c) The writer of the memo admits that all measures to obtain voluntary enlistment had failed and only forcible methods with the help of a greatly strengthened police force could lead to a partial success(page 9). He asks for a large increase in the police force.

LT.WELDON Doc.No.204-PS

NOTE:DO NOT MARK,UNDERLINE OR OTHERWISE DEFACE ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

H4899-0005

H4899 - 0006

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT NO 204 PS
OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

The City Commissioner in KAUEN

KAUEN, 18 February 1944

Procurement of Native Workers for Purposes of the Reich.

Numerous actions for the purposes of recruiting native workers for the Reich have taken place since the entry of German armed forces into the General district (Generalbezirk) Lithuania in June 1941. A few weeks after the entry of the German troops, thousands of Lithuanian male and female farmworkers were recruited at the instigation of the military administeration, and namely for the duration of 6 months for employment on the large estates in the GAU East Prussia. Unfortunately, the promises made then were not kept. One did not release those farmworkers neither after 6 months nor after 12 months, one has for months left their relatives, who were left behind, without any support at all, one has refused them for a long time to make a short vacation journey to Lithuania, one even has the idea today, to transfer the agricultural workers, recruited in the year 1941 for the duration of 6 months, into the armament industry of the Reich.

The second labor action was started by the Armed Forces in the spring of 1942, and comprised the getting ready of approximately 7,000 male, so called transport helpers. The action, which was rushed into, and was started without sufficient propaganda preparations, was obstructed a great deal by careless measures of the Armed Forces, which had become nervous. Thus for instance, the Lithuanians, ordered to the official agencies "only for registration" were held there, taken away under military guard to the local barracks, and then they had neither the opportunity to bid their families good-bye nor to put their most important personal affairs in order. No wonder, that the enemy propaganda grasped this "blemish" with pleasure, and was able to make a comparison with deportation methods, used barely a year ago by the Soviets.

Until the most recent times, numerous additional actions have been staged for the purpose of obtaining volunteers for the

H4899 - 0007

Armed Forces, police and Reich Labor Service, or for obtaining workers for the armament industry of the Reich. Finally, it must not be forgotten in this connection, that over 40,000 mostly professional Lithuanians were deported by the Soviets in the Spring of 1941, and also, that several hundreds of thousands of Jews were removed from the working process, the latter ones having been mostly active in the manual trades, and until this day, they mostly could not be replaced at their jobs.

The failures which took place during the first actions, filled the native population with lively distrust toward all publications and measures, which contained the further removal of native workers for the purpose of the Reich. Added to this was the punitive regulations, announced in the first publications, which were never or only in a few exceptional cases put to use, so that the native population soon lost its respect for the authority of the German administration to a certain degree. Added further to this is <u>the lack of a specific national or community spirit</u> in the Lithuanian people. In the small seasonal state of Lithuania, parliamentarism has been played through allitits symptoms since 1919: coup d'etats, revolts and changes of system were very frequent, a certain intellectual clique, mainly in the capital of the country, decided the policy, carried out shameless corruption with the national offices and the all-powerful clergy frequently spoke the decisive word in the background. The Lithuanian himself is a primitive man, he is glad, if he is left alone, and he just does not like to concern himself with public matters. He is distrustful toward his own government in power, he has no great respect toward the laws of his own state. Thus the fact warrants mentioning, that during the mustering of the former Lithuanian freestate, up to 30% of those, obliged to report, stayed away from the mustering, and had to be sent to the mustering places under duress withthe help of the police.

Finally, it must be established, that the native administration in its present form and since its existence <u>has completely failed</u> in the question of the procurement of workers for the Reich. Below, the complete failure of the native administration

is proven by the description of individual examples:

1. The conscription of the age classes 1919/24

was carried out in the General District Lithuania based on a decree of the Reich Commissioner for the East (Ostland) of 16 Feb.1943. The mustering, according to lists, of all those obliged to report of these age classes, was left up to the countries own police, and these again were to make use of the statistical material in the registration offices of the police. In the district of the City KAUEN, over 35% of the written orders, sent to everyone obliged to report, could not be delivered, becauses the adresses were not correct.

The actual conscription was given into the hands of conscription staffs, appointed by the Commissioner General, which were composed of members of the armed forces, police, native administration and of the labor office. With the Commissioner General himself, a working committee for the entire action was organized, which set in motion an extremely active propaganda, worked out directives for the process, issued orders of the day to the conscription staffs almost daily, and had conscription staffs report to it daily about the situation and morale of the native population. Numerous proclamations in the press and radio, thus from the first General Council, the Central Council of the orthodox (Zentralrat der Altglaeubigen), later also from the Lithuanian conference, were to emphatically point out to the native population their obligations, to send the male members of the age classes called up as completely as possible to the conscription offices.

Already after a few days, after the action was set in motion, the usual, and this time very heavy disturbance manoeuvers by the political opponents started. This time, it was mostly the Lithuanian intelligentsia, which turned against the conscription of the age classes, and who, among other things, made use of the university to arouse sentiment against the conscription action. The following were then put in effect by us as counter measures:

Renunciation of forming a Lithuanian legion.

Closing of the native universities
and
Arrest of a number of members of the Lithuanian intelligentsia.

H4899 - 0008

This countermeasure was not effective any more, to decisively improve the bad result of the conscription, In view of the completely insufficient total results of the conscription, a supplementary conscription of the same age classes was ordered by a proclamation of the Commissioner General on 6 April 1943, and heavy punishment was promised those, obliged to register, who should again stay away from the supplementary conscription. Despite the formation of native conscription commissions (Order of the First General Council of 6 April 1943) and despite the employment of motorized German police units (Order of the SS and Police commander of Lithuania of 6 May 1943) the result of the supplementary conscription remained competely unsatisfactory. For instance, the following results were achieved in the district of the city of KAUEN :

Ordered to the first conscription: 2800 men

Appeared for the first conscription: 1794 men
- approx. 65%

expected for the supplementary conscription: 3000men
(Estimated number)

appeared for the supplementary conscription: 928 men
- approx 30%

Total result:

Total expected 5800 men
total appeared 2722 " - approx. 47%

But even those 2722 men, finally mustered in the district of the city of KAUEN, could only to the smallest extent be readied for the purpose of the Reich, for mainly those Lithuanians appeared for the conscription and the supplementary conscription, who were more or less indispensable in their present professional activity, and also were themselves convinced about their indispensability. Besides that, many physically unfit appeared, whereas those obliged to report, who had no steady work or none at all, stayed away from the conscription and the mustering from the very beginning.

2. The entirely unsatisfactory result of the previous action necessitated a further conscription of the age classes 1912/18 and 1925 as well as afterwards the conscription of the female age classes 1914/

H4899 - 0009

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2. The entirely unsatisfactory result of the previous action necessitated a further conscription of the age classes 1912/18 and 1925 as well as afterwards the conscription of the female age classes 1914/

H4899 - 0010

These two further actions as well did not bring any satisfactory result. In a lecture, which the Pleni-Potentiary General for the ARBEITSEINSATZ (GBA), GAULEITER SAUCKEL held in KAUEN on 18 July 1943, and during an official conference, which followed, between GAULEITER SAUCKEL and the Commissioner General, the strained situation of the employment of labor in the Reich came up again urgently, and GAULEITER SAUCKEL again established the demand, to supply Lithuanian workers for the purposes of the Reich to a greater extent. As it can be construed from the minutes of that conference, the Commisioner General described very emphatically the great difficulties, which oppose the getting ready of native workers, and requested urgently the getting ready of a larger number of German Police forces. SS Lt.Gen. (Obergruppenfuehrer) VON DEM BACH specifically promised at the time "considerable reinforcement of the police forces in Lithuania". This considerable reinforcement of the police forces in Lithuania however has not been carried out in the course of further actions.

3. The demand of GAULEITER SAUCKEL read, to recruit in a short time 30,000 native workers for the Reich and to ship them to Germany. During a conference between the Commissioner General and the first General Council (Generalrat) on 7 September 1943, the latter offered to assume the entire responsibility for the execution of this action for the native administration and to recruit and ship the demanded number of 30,000 workers by 7 November 1943.

While far reaching support was meanwhile promised and also given by us to the native administration, the entire matter was ruined by the latter in an absolutely irresponsible manner. The Lithuanians were not embarassed for lack of an excuse. One time a sufficient native police force was not on hand, then vehicles for the transportation of the recruited manpower were lacking, then another time sufficient fuel was not at hand. If the difficulties described were removed by us, immediately new ones appeared, and the inevitable happened: At the conference of the district chiefs (Kreischefbesprechung) which took place on 11 November 1943 under the chairmanship of the First General Councillor (Generalrat), the number of workers, recruited

H4899 - 0011

until then, was established as less than 3,000; and one had promised freely to recruit and send to the Reich by this time 30,000 workers. At the request of the native administration, the Commissioner General granted a second extension of the time limit, and the native administration obligated itself, to get the demanded 30,000 workers ready by 31 January 1944 at the latest. Instead of the promised 30,000 workers, only 8,200 were at our disposal on 31 January, 1944.

4. In the meantime Gauleiter SAUCKEL made a new demand, that the General District Lithuania must now get 100,000 native workers (instead of the 30,000, demanded up until now) ready for the Reich. At a conference with all the General Councillors on 24 January, 1944, the Commissioner General did not leave any doubts, that this number must be supplied under all conditions, even at the risk, that many work projects within the General District could not be executed and that numerous labor jobs in the country would remain vacant. The responsibility for the execution of this new action again lies in the hands of the native administration, and with the consent of the Commissioner General native conscription commissions have been formed with all district chiefs and all chiefs of judicial and local districts (Kreischefs, Amtsbezirks- und Ortsvorstehern). The total number to be made available has been divided up into quotas, and the quota to be supplied by every major, that is, every district chief (Kreischef) was determined withthe quantity exactly limited. This is the way the matter looks in the district of the city of KAUEN:

New quota, to be supplied:	7,000 workers
20% addition	1,400 "
total	8,400 "

In the district of the City of KAUEN, according to the findings of my labor office, on 1 February, 1944, 7,000 labor jobs in industry, in the agencies of the armed forces, police, etc. were vacant, so that practically 15,400 workers would have to be supplied in the city of KAUEN alone, in order to comply fully with the demands of the Reich and the demands of native economy. And that, with a total population figure of only little more than 130,000 native persons.

H4899 - 0012

In this connection it must not be overlooked, that in the larger cities it is much more difficult than in level country-land to furnish to required number of workers. In the country the community-chief can see which people have or have not made the proper delivery of peasants; he can also see whether a person has managed his affairs in exemplary fashion or has let his property run down and can see what labor is needed or not needed on a single farm and which persons do or do not have regular employment. On the basis of his exact knowledge of such affairs the community-chief (and in many cases the Chief of the Judicial District (Amtsbezirksvorsteher) as well) can rather justly and advantageously divide their contingents. In complete contrast to this the major of a large city is not able to look things over in detail, even his closest co-workers do not and cannot see at a glance which workers can be released in the field of retail trade, craft an trade, industry, etc. The administration of a large city does not happen to be so close to the public and so closely connected with the population as is the administration of a community. In addition there is the police registration system, which is not yet functioning today, and which therefore does not allow for an exact survey of the total number of inhabitants, and their individual professions. Furthermore, the high number of Lithuanian workers, who have been declared key-workers in the numerous industrial and business plants of the City of KAUEN must be considered and finally it has to be considered that as a result of the shortening and the relating of the front, numerous contracts for the armed forces have been transferred to local plants in the last weeks and therefore have caused a still greater need for workers, which cannot be taken care of at present. It will therefore have to be considered impossible that the City of KAUEN furnish its required quota of workers.

As far as the fulfillment of the contingent of 100,000 workers required from the General District of Lithuania is concerned, everything is naturally being tried by the German Civilian Administration, in order to complete this action with the

H4899 - 0013

can be executed by us only if, as we have already explained, an adequate number of German police units are furnished.

sign. illegible

We, A. Flandreau, T/3 Charles A. Moosmann, 1046305/ 2141925, hereby certify that we am thoroughly conversant in the English and German languages; and above is a true and correct translation of document 204 P.S.

H4899 -0014

H-4899

1410

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RF 1410

H4899 – 0015

H4899-0016